

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 06900 310320Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /084 W

-----312052Z 076431 /62

R 310155Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 643

INFO AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

CINCPAC HONOLULU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 6900

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJ: COMMUNIST MASSACRE ALLEGED IN SOUTHERN VIET-NAM

SUMMARY: SOME FIVE TO TEN EX-ARVN AND OTHERS WERE OBSERVED BEING KNIFED TO DEATH IN MEKONG DELTA IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. END SUMMARY.

1. CONSUL SONGKHLA INTERVIEWD VIETNAMESE LAWYER FROM BIEN HOA, NGUYEN XUAN BANG, MAR 29, WHO RECOUNTED A STORY OF EXECUTIONS TAKING PLACE IN U MINH FOREST LAST SEPTEMBER. BANG HAS BEEN A REFUGEE IN SONGKHLA BOAT CAMP SINCE LAST DECEMBER AND HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR U.S. BOAT REFUGEE PROGRAM. HE HAS ONLY NOW BEGUN TALKING ABOUT THE INCIDENT.

2. AS BACKGROUND, BANG REPORTED THAT HE REMAINED IN BIEN HOA UNTIL MAR 1976, WHEN HE JOURNEYED TO SAIGON. THERE, HE VISITED PRG VICE MINISTER OF INFORMATION LU CHI LANG AT HIS HOME,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 06900 310320Z

THANKS TO KNOWING RELATIVE OF LANG'S. (CURIOSLY, WHILE THERE, BANG CLAIMED HE SAW OFFICIAL SRV DOCUMENT STATING THAT THERE ARE 100,000 PERSONS BELONGING TO "WHITE KHMER" RESISTANCE GROUP FIGHTING KC INSIDE CAMBODIA.) LANG ALLEGEDLY FURNISHED BANG LETTER TO FACILITATE HIS TRAVEL IN JUNE, 1976, TO U MINH FOREST AREA IN THE MEKONG DELTA, WHERE BANG BECAME A FISHERMAN.

3. BANG RESIDED AT COI NAM HAMLET, KHANH HUNG B VILLAGE ON THE ONG DOC RIVER IN PRESENT MINH HAI PROVINCE. A RE-EDUCATION CAMP FOR EX-ARVN AND, POSSIBLY, CIVILIANS OF WHOSE BACKGROUND HE WAS UNFAMILIAR WAS ALSO LOCATED IN THE HAMLET.

4. IN APPROXIMATELY THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER, BANG SAID HE SAW ABOUT 500 MEN FROM THE RE-EDUCATION CENTER BOARDING FIVE BOATS. HE WAS TOLD THEY WERE GOING TO CA MAU TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL DAY FESTIVITIES. BECAUSE HE HAD A BOAT AND PERMISSION TO USE IT (BASED LARGELY ON LANG'S LETTER), BANG CLAIMED HE FOLLOWED BOATS WHICH, AFTER TEN KMS ON MAIN WATERWAY, TURNED IN EASTWARD DIRECTION. HE CONTINUED TO FOLLOW BOATS, THEN FROM AFAR, SAW SOLDIERS ATTACKING BETWEEN 5-10 OF THE PASSENGERS WITH KNIVES. HE DID NOT SEE WHAT HAPPENDED TO THE OTHER PASSENGERS BUT SPECULATED THAT THEY MUST HAVE BEEN SPLIT UP. NEEDLESS TO SAY, HE ALSO DID NOT WAIT AROUND TO SEE FINAL OUTCOME NOR DID HE VISIT SITE LATER TO LOOK FOR BODIES.

5. A DAY LATER, BANG SAID HE OVERHEARD VILLAGE CHIEF (OWNER OF HOUSE BANG WAS RENTING) ARGUING WITH HIS SON, A PAVN MAJOR. THE CHIEF ALLEGEDLY ASKED HIS SON WHY HE ALLOWED SO MANY PEOPLE TO BE KILLED. THE SON SAID ONLY THAT HE WAS FOLLOWING ORDERS, WITHOUT SPECIFYING WHOSE ORDERS.

6. CONSUL DESCRIBED BANG AS BALANCED PERSON AND NOTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BANGKO 06900 310320Z

THAT HE SEEMED CERTAIN OF HIS STORY. WE HAVE NOTHING TO CONFIRM THAT STORY IS ACCURATE AND WONDER ABOUT SOME OF THE DETAILS, INCLUDING BANG'S HAPPENING TO SEE A PRE-SUMABLYSECRET DOCUMENT ON CAMBODIAN RESISTANCE LYING AROUND AN OFFICIAL'S HOUSE. WHY BANG WAITED UNTIL RECENTLY TO BEGIN TELLING HIS STORY IS CURIOUS, AS WELL. STILL, HE RECOUNTED IT IN A STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER, AND WE WOULD BE CURIOUS WHETHER ANY ADDRESSEES HAVE HEARD SOMETHING SIMILAR. VIET-NAM, AFTER ALL, HAS NOT BEEN THE LOCALE FOR MASSACRE STORIES SIMILAR TO THOSE IN CAMBODIA.

7 SEVERAL OF THE LEADING NEWS AGENCIES HAVE THE STORY, AS WELL, BUT HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO GO WITH IT IN ABSENCE OF SUPPORTING EVIDENCE. ONE VERSION MAKES IT A LARGER MASSACRE THAN BANG RECOUNTED TO CONSUL, WITH BANG REPORTEDLY HAVING SEEN "LOTS" OF BODIES. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT PRESS MAY QUERY DEPARTMENT FOR ANY KNOWLEDGE OF INCIDENT.
BURKE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLEGATIONS, MASSACRES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO06900
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770111-0395
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977035/aaaaadkc.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ae167db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3077945
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMUNIST MASSACRE ALLEGED IN SOUTHERN VIET-NAM SUMMARY: SOME FIVE TO TEN EX-ARVN AND OTHERS WERE OBSERVED BEING KNIFED TO DEATH IN MEKONG DELTA IN EARLY SEP
TAGS: PINT, PINS, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ae167db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009